

the chronicle

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Cycle lane is putting riders at risk, claim

A controversial cycle lane created around a busy Halesowen traffic island is putting both bike users and drivers at risk, it was claimed as calls were renewed for it to be removed.

Markings were put around the island in Shell Corner earlier this year by Dudley Council to make it easier for cyclists. But Stourbridge Bicycle Users' Group, better known as Stourbug, say it has had the reverse effect as the lane takes bikes closer to the path of cars as they are leaving the roundabout. Drivers may also not see them straight away as they go around the island, creating a further risk of an accident taking place, according to the group.

Stourbug chairman Russell Eden said members had called for the lane to be removed before but so far nothing had happened. He said the matter would now be taken up with new Dudley Council transport boss Councillor Patrick Harley.

Preventing

Mr Eden continued: "This lane leaves cyclists vulnerable and increases the risk of accidents rather than preventing them, which we were told was the intention. This is just not the right development for this area and it needs to be removed at the earliest opportunity."

"We are asking for the council to take this action. In our view this has simply been a waste of money." Council leader Councillor Les Jones said there were presently no plans to remove the lane.

"There was a situation where accidents were happening along this roundabout which is why it was decided to introduce the cycling zone," he said.

"People have spoken about the costs but frankly we are talking peanuts for this project. It is doing no harm being in place and may actually be helping the situation for both cyclists and motorists."

"I really can't see why there has been a problem with it."

But Councillor Jones admitted once the markings faded it was unlikely to be replaced because users did not want it.

First houses for 20 years

The first new council houses to be built in Dudley for 20 years will be advertised to new tenants within weeks.

The waiting list for a council house in the borough stands at just over 7,600 – including existing tenants looking to transfer to a new property. Work is well under way at five sites across the borough after the council secured £4.3 million from the Government's Homes and Communities Agency. The five sites include a 19-home development in Lower Gornal.

The former council garage site on Wood Road would be transformed with two, three and four-bedroom family houses and two-bedroom apartments.

A 22-home development is also being built on a former council-owned open space and garage plot on Norwood Road, Brockmoor. This includes the same type of housing as the Lower Gornal scheme.

In Blackthorn Road, Wordsley, 20 homes will be built on a former garage and bungalow site. There will be two, three and four-bedroom family houses.

A six-property development is also being built on a former garage site on Tenacre Lane, Upper Gornal.

And a 13-property development is going on a garage site and former council compound on Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank, including two-bedroom houses, bungalows and apartments.

Dudley Zoo will get £1.15m for a major revamp and to reopen famous chairlift



The zoo's old chairlift

A £1.15 million project to revamp Dudley Zoo's iconic wave entrance and bear pit and reopen its chairlift has been announced.

The popular attraction has been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards renovating four of its historic Tecton buildings.

They date back to 1937 and also include the Safari Shop and one of the kiosks.

The zoo has been awarded initial development funding of more than £123,000 for the three-year project.

Bosses now have up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for a full grant of just over £970,000. Work will begin next year, marking the 50th anniversary of the chairlift, which closed in 2000. The Tecton structures

were designed and built between 1935 and 1937 using reinforced concrete, a pioneering system at the time.

Zoo chairman David Sparks OBE said: "These buildings are among the most significant in the history of modern architecture. People just do not realise how much today's world has been shaped by the concepts and techniques pioneered with these buildings in the 1930s."

In 2009, all 12 of the zoo's Modernist structures had received World Monuments Fund status and placed on a watch list alongside Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal, ensuring a global focus on the world's largest single collection of Tecton buildings.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "This is fantastic news."



The bear pit at Dudley Zoo which is to be revamped

Four-year-old tries to copy the family pet and ends up in a pickle

YOUNG RACHEL IN THE GATE ESCAPE

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Four-year-old Rachel Warren thought she would be able to copy her pet dog by popping her head through bars of their front gate – but unlike the mutt she became trapped.

After frantically trying to pull her daughter free outside the family home on Fisher Street, Brierley Hill, her mother Carlene was forced to call in the fire brigade to rescue the youngster.

The drama unfolded as 31-year-old Carlene was preparing to take her daughter to nearby Hawbush Nursery at around 11 on Monday morning.

The youngster, who has a 15-year-old brother Matthew, had her reins on when she started playing and pretended to be the family's beloved pet dog.

Unfortunately she then stuck her head through the front gate – like the dog often does – and found her head was stuck between two bars.

Firefighter

Her mother says the fire brigade was on the scene within minutes and a firefighter was able to pull the gates open releasing Rachel.

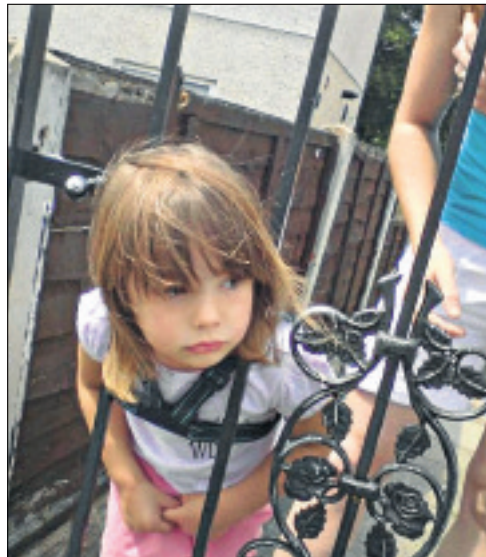
Afterwards the youngster was treated to a tour of the fire engine by firefighters who said they were impressed with how brave and calm she had been throughout her ordeal.

The youngster's father Wayne Warren, aged 33, said: "My wife said she was on her way to nursery and Rachel had her reins on when she started to run around pretending she was a dog. She poked her head through the gate but couldn't get it back out."

"My wife tried to pull her out but had to call the fire service. They let her sit in the fire engine afterwards."

Carlene added: "Rachel was a bit upset at first but she calmed down after I told her Fireman Sam was on his way."

Firefighter Richard Dunleavy, from Brierley Hill Fire Station, said they had thought they managed to free her without using any tools. He added: "She stayed very calm and we got her on the truck afterwards."



The youngster had been trying to copy her pet dog's actions



Rachel and her mother Carlene

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Bosses backing city bid

Business bosses have contacted the leader of Dudley Council to back the borough's bid to become a city.

Dudley is set to battle it out against 25 towns for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

It was announced last year that one new city would be created to mark the Queen's 60 years on the throne. The decision to submit an application was made just a few days before the May 27 deadline by Dudley Council leader Les Jones.

Cabinet members backed the application during a meeting last week.

Council leader Les Jones said: "An opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime, who knows when it may happen again. We have a very proud history as an area. We have a lot to shout about."

"I have had letters of support from significant businessmen in the area and some have offered to write to the Government to show their support. I would actively encourage anyone in the borough to support the bid."

MP to meet the people

The MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis will be visiting residents on their streets to find out about what is affecting them this weekend.

On July 9 between 2pm and 4pm James Morris will be on Regis Heath Road, Rowley Regis to speak to residents about any issues they want to raise.

Mamma Mia! Daughter tracks down real father

A Dudley father has been tracked down by the daughter he never knew he had – after a search that mirrored the plot of hit movie Mamma Mia.

Steve Phillips, aged 47, of Brierley Hill, was found by his 25-year-old daughter Fallon Kelly, who had wondered for years who her real dad was. Her mum Debbie, 45, wasn't certain.



Builder Steve Phillips and his daughter Fallon Kelly

She gave Fallon the names of her love interests from around the time her daughter was conceived.

She tracked down ex-boxer Steve who is now a builder, and the pair met.

A DNA test showed there was a 99.99 per cent chance he was her father.

She said: "He said I look so like his 20-year-old daughter Leanne that he knew it was true."

Scaffolding

Mr Phillips said he was working on scaffolding in Dudley at the time, and nearly fell off when he got the news.

When Fallon turned detective, she found she had three possible fathers.

One was ruled out, and then she got in touch with Steve.

Fallon, an office manager from Kent, has been welcomed into Steve's family by her dad's wife Tracie and son Ryan, 17.

Steve said: "It's a complete shock and a lovely surprise. Our family is now complete."

In Mamma Mia, based on Abba songs, a young woman invites her mother's three former lovers to their wedding on a remote Greek island to find out which one is her real father.

Shop giving help to the heroes

A charity shop in Halesowen is supporting two good causes at once after launching a two-month fundraiser in aid of Help for Heroes.

Staff at the Sunbeams Music Trust store in High Street are selling raffle tickets to boost funds for the soldiers' charity. The shop opened 18 months ago to support the music trust which provides therapeutic music sessions to youngsters and adults with special needs and disabilities.

Shop manager Katie Bennett said she had been inspired by a charity store in Chester that had held a raffle to help another good cause.

"We chose Help for Heroes because we keep reading in the news about these soldiers and what is happening in Iraq and Afghanistan and wanted to do something to help. We have lots of prizes to give away," she said.

Fun day date

A bouncy castle, a Punch and Judy show, donkey rides and a giant sandpit will be on offer at the Upper Gornal Fun Day. The event, on Saturday, will be at the Vale Street Recreation Centre, Upper Gornal, and will feature a DJ, barbecue, face-painting, and craft stalls. The event runs noon-4pm. Entry is free.



Richard Totney from The Royal Mercian & Lancastrian Yeomanry (RMLY) A-squad with shop manager Katie Bennett and Luke Brotherton from RMLY A-squad, and back left shop volunteers Liz Bradley, Margaret Hood and Joan McNamara

Sacking is ruled as fair

The nurse in charge of a Smethwick care home where residents were left in soaked beds and without drinks all night has lost a compensation claim for unfair dismissal.

Grace Simister, of Dudley, made her compensation claim at Birmingham Employment Tribunal against First Care (Smethwick) Ltd.

The firm runs Ash Lodge care home on Londonderry Lane, Smethwick.

Mr Mark Thompson, representing the firm, said Miss Simister was in charge on June 25, 2009, when residents were left in soaked sheets after their urine pads were not changed.

Other residents were left without drinks, while one dementia-suffering woman was left in a bed tilted, leaving her head and feet "scrunched up". Potentially infected linen was not thrown away, the tribunal heard.

Miss Simister was sacked for gross misconduct. She said she was not given a chance by the management to give an explanation.

During a cross-examination Mr Thompson accused Miss Simister of "passing the buck" and reminded her she admitted she would not have let a member of her family to have been left in such appalling conditions.

The tribunal earlier heard Miss Simister had been given a final written warning and had seven complaints made against her in two months before suspension and was dismissed in November 2009. The final warning followed disputes with staff member.

The tribunal ruled the claim for unfair dismissal be rejected.

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Lottery cash plea gets go-ahead

A £2 million bid for improvements at a beauty spot will go ahead after a committee agreed money from two funds could be used to plug a £125,000 shortfall.

Dudley Council is set to start work on a second application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure nearly £3 million for the planned revamp work at Mary Stevens Park, Norton, Stourbridge.

But to meet the strict criteria, the authority has to prove it would be able to provide match funding of approximately £624,000.

Stourbridge Area Committee was told funding of £499,000 had been

found from other budgets but the last £125,000 was still being sought.

Officers asked members if they would consider using cash put aside over the past few years from the committee's own capital allocation fund and from the Ernest Stevens Trust, a fund for work to the park.

The money has been saved as a back-up measure to ensure repairs to the park's grade-II listed gates goes ahead whether the bid is successful or not.

After a heated debate, members agreed the cash could be used if necessary – but only after assurances from committee member and council

leader Les Jones that the cash would still be available if the bid was unsuccessful.

Councillor Jones told the committee: "If the bid for this money from the Heritage Lottery Fund is unsuccessful we will still have this money. We are not spending anything."

"This money would only be used if the bid is successful and in that case the gates would still be repaired. We are talking about throwing away a potential £2.6 million investment if we refuse this."

The committee was told the Heritage Lottery Fund had already agreed to provide £116,100.

Permits to fish now available

Anglers from across the region are heading back to Dudley's designated fishing reserves for the start of the season.

Permits for the two sites, located at Himley Hall and Fens Pool Nature Reserve, are now available.

Himley's pool is open from 7am to 6pm every day and offers the chance to fish for trench, carp, roach, perch, bream and pike.

Primarily a nature reserve, Fens Pool is also a well established angling site. Its three large pools and adjoining canal have excellent fish stocks, including pike and carp.

Environment chief Councillor David Stanley, said: "Angling is a time-honoured hobby for many of our residents and we are very proud of our two fantastic fishing sites."

"Residents are reminded that fishing is only permitted in the two designated reserves and that a permit is required for anyone who wishes to use them."

Anyone who wants to find more information can visit www.dudley.gov.uk.

Charity shop raises £32,000

Staff at a Black Country charity shop are celebrating after raising more than £32,000 during their first year.

The shop in Kent Street, Lower Gornal raises cash for the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

It opened in April last year to support the unit which provides specialist treatment for leukaemia patients.

Since then it has raised more than £32,000. Shop manager Pauline Jenkins said: "The support we've had from the local community has been phenomenal. We are very grateful."

The charity is also celebrating a donation of £1,000 from the Oval and Tudor Newsletter group in Upper Gornal.

Meanwhile Sandwell Lions Club International have donated a 32-inch television for the waiting area in the Georgina Unit.

Circus skills

Youngsters can try their hand at circus skills at an activity morning to launch a summer reading challenge at Kidderminster Library on July 9. For more information call 01905 822722.



Front, from left, Pauline Jenkins, Ros Bratt-Wyton, Harry Sterling and Terry Potter. Back, June Berry, Reg Lees, Gordon Monckton, Paula Lawley, and Doug Beedles

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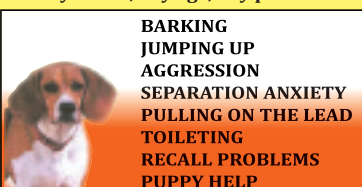
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Service hits all national targets

West Midlands Ambulance Service has welcomed a new report which shows the trust is achieving all four of the national performance standards despite it being the organisation's busiest year on record.

According to the NHS Information Centre, the trust was the only one in the country to secure all of the standards required at the same time.

New figures show 76.8 per cent of category A, or life threatening calls,

had some sort of response with them within eight minutes. The target was 75 per cent.

If the initial response then called for back up, the trust had to get help out within 19 minutes in 95 per cent of cases, and it achieved 98.1 per cent.

Category B calls, which are considered serious but non-life threatening, had to have a response out within 19 minutes 95 per cent of the time – which it achieved exactly.

The trust was also tasked with answering 95 per cent of 999 calls within five seconds which it managed to do 98.1 per cent of the time.

The organisation also revealed it received nearly 864,000 calls in 2010/2011 and had its busiest day on record on December 17, 2010, when the trust provided 3,941 responses.

New Clinical Quality Indicators have been introduced by the Government for next year.

145 join mothers' scheme

More than 145 venues in Dudley have signed up to a scheme to ensure breastfeeding mothers are made to feel welcome.

Health chiefs in the borough say for mothers with a baby, it helps to know where they are welcome to breastfeed so Dudley Public Health, with Dudley Council, has launched a breastfeeding welcome scheme throughout the borough.

The scheme gives cafes, restaurants, leisure centres, libraries, children's centres and other public venues resources to let mothers know they are welcome to breastfeed on the premises.

They include a sticker for the front window and a poster.

Councillor Liz Walker, Dudley Council's member for children's services, said: "I'm sure it will prove a real help to new mums."

Council app

Dudley residents can now contact the council via a new mobile phone app. The Looking Local application is a free android application so people can use their phone to report vandalism, potholes and abandoned vehicles.

Pupils put themselves on the map

Young film makers got to grips with geography as they made their own TV programme.

Pupils at Roberts Primary School in Lower Gornal wrote, performed, filmed and edited the show which was inspired by the BBC's Horrible Histories series.

The programme, called Gruesome Geography, included a news report about flooding and a mountain resort holiday advertisement as well as items about volcanoes and rivers.

There were also songs and dances inspired by weather and natural hazards, and the pupils created a large 3-D map of the world.

They were helped by theatrical company Urban Voice, from Wolverhampton, and Year 4 teacher Jake Stone said the project had been a great success.



Roberts Primary School pupils, Sam Fisher, front, with Lucy Whitehouse and Lucy-Blue Lloyd, all aged nine, with the school's Gruesome Geography DVD

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Missed appointments cost £4m

Patients failing to turn up for appointments cost Dudley's hospital trust nearly £4million last year, new figures claim.

A total of 44,696 slots – calculated at £3.9m – were missed during 2010/11 and hospital bosses are working to reduce the number of people who forget to show.

From July 1, a new text message

service will run in the children's department at Russells Hall Hospital to help remind parents of appointments. They will receive a reminder three days before their child's slot.

It is the latest scheme to slash the bill from missed appointments, which has fallen by £100,000 in 2009/10.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall

and Guest hospitals in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge, has already started a telephone reminder service which automatically reminds patients of their clinic appointment.

The phone call service had previously been trialled for orthopaedic outpatients after proving successful, it was rolled out to all outpatient, inpatient and day case departments.

Housing base is to be closed

A housing office in Dudley earmarked for closure after repairs and maintenance costs were estimated at around £110,000 will shut by the autumn, council chiefs say.

Bosses have rubber-stamped the plan to axe the North Dudley Area Housing Office in Bilston Street, Sedgley, and say they will look to knock it down "soon after its closure."

A survey carried out by Dudley Council last autumn revealed £22,000 was needed to repair the roof, drainage and outside in the short-term and a further £86,000 would be needed in the long-term.

Council bosses say severe weather last winter has also taken its toll. Costs associated with the demolition and clearing of the site have been put at £3,000.

There will be no job losses as a result of the closure.

Council records also showed less than 100 customers a week were using the office for services other than income payment, with the majority accessing a free phone to other council departments.

Housing chief Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "People will still be able to access housing services in a range of ways."

It's a top Midsummer night out

One of Shakespeare's most famous comedies was given a Black Country twist for its latest outdoor experience.

The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, was the venue for a different take on the Bard's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Instead of the mystical forest of the original play, towering chimneys and a canal-side dockyard were the backdrop for the three-day production.

An all-male cast from open air theatre company The Lord Chamberlain's Men staged the performance surrounded by rusting canal barges and old ironworks.

While rain drenched both cast and visitors, brighter weather over the weekend ensured a good time was had by all.

The dramatic industrial setting had theatre-goers in raptures as many had travelled from around the region to see the show.

Many took picnics to sit within the grounds of the museum, in Tipton Road, before the play started.

Friends Peggy Vowles, aged 73 and Doreen Allen, 67, both from Tipton tucked in to their food on a bench overlooking the scene on Saturday night.

"It was a very energetic show and very enjoyable," said Doreen. Martin Bissell, 53, came from Sheldon, near Solihull, with his partner Tracy Abbott, 48 and their friend Deborah Fitzgerald, 49, and said it had been well worth it.



Tracy Abbott, Martin Bissell, Deborah Fitzgerald

"The performance was so absorbing that I couldn't believe it when it got to the end as we had been so engrossed," he said. "I'd definitely give the performance 10 out of 10," he added.

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175/70TR14 Bridgestone B250	£70.23	£130	£250	175/70TR14 Avon ZTS	£53.34	£99	£190	175/70TR14 Budget	£39.43
175/65TR14 Bridgestone B250	£58.55	£110	£210	175/65TR14 Avon ZTS	£44.95	£85	£160	175/65TR14 Budget	£41.49

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185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£85.44	£160	£310	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£62.59	£115	£220	185/65HR15 Budget	£45.48
195/65HR15 Bridgestone B250	£73.16	£135	£260	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£57.07	£105	£199	195/65HR15 Budget	£48.13

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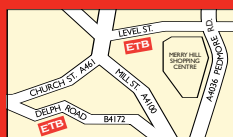
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thechronicle

Council pulls out of centre plan

Plans for a new £7 million health and social care centre will be scaled back after Dudley Council pulled out of the project.

The authority said it could no longer afford to contribute £90,000 a year for five years for the complex in Lye, which will now be solely funded by NHS Dudley.

It had been hoped the centre could offer both health and social care facilities and would have housed council offices. But health bosses said it would now concentrate on health-

care. This would include GP practices, a pharmacy and minor surgery. The proposed site for the building is on land between Clinic Drive and Jackson Street.

Dudley Council's housing chief, Council Lesley Faulkner said: "Dudley Council has made a decision to withdraw from the health and social care scheme in Lye.

"This is because the council is unable to make the required financial contribution within its budget and medium-term financial strategy as

funding from the department of health has been withdrawn and this was expected to cover a substantial part of the scheme's cost.

"It is important to stress that the scheme will still go ahead but as an NHS facility," she said.

NHS Dudley managing director Steve Cartwright said: "We are obviously disappointed the vision for a shared health and social care facility in the Lye area is no longer viable.

"We are still in the very early stages of the project."

Anger as home for respite care is shut

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk



Jane Robinson with Kaysie-Jane Bland and family member Shannon Robinson

Parents of severely disabled children in the Black Country are "upset and angry" after a respite home they depended upon to give them regular breaks closed suddenly amid fears the building poses an infection risk.

Health chiefs say a recent outbreak of sickness at The Willows, Vicarage Road, Ambleside, Stourbridge, which provided short breaks for 17 children with "complex health and social care needs", prompted the decision.

Six members of staff and two children were affected by the bug. NHS Dudley and Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, which manages the service for youngsters aged up to 18, has now suspended admissions while they review the options for future provision of respite care.

But parents are angry the nearest alternative offered is in Brownhills, over 20 miles away.

Single mother Jane Robinson, aged 36, of Hockley Lane, Netherton, whose seven-year-old daughter, Kaysie-Jane Bland has cerebral

palsy and is quadriplegic, said: "I feel very angry and upset. Kaysie-Jane has been going to The Willows for one night twice a month since she was just over six months old to give me a break."

Rachael Gardener, aged 43, of Jason Road, Stourbridge, and her husband, Malcolm, 43, have also depended upon The Willows.

They have seven-year-old twins Tom, who is quadriplegic with cerebral palsy and Harry, who has autism and severe learning difficulties, and say they need respite to spend quality time with daughter Hannah, 14.

Statement

A joint statement from NHS Dudley and Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust says: "We have managed issues associated with the poor fabric of the building for some time in order to maintain a safe service.

"However, a recent outbreak of sickness and diarrhoea has presented a clinical risk. Whilst this has been dealt with, we are no longer confident that this might not pose a future clinical risk."

Sue Marshall, director of children, young people and families at the trust, said: "This decision was not taken lightly."

Summer of sports

Sports and arts activities will be held for children across Dudley this summer.

The summer holiday programme runs from July 28 to September 2 offering sessions for children aged five to 16.

Many of the events will be held at the borough's five healthy hubs and Priory Park, off The Broadway, Dudley. Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre, Bell Street, will host events for children with disabilities.

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk or call 01384 815594.

Silver Jubilee Park, Cosely, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, The Dell stadium, Brierley Hill, Netherton Park and Hunt- ington Park, Halesowen are the five healthy hubs.

Sculpture for new office

Dudley College students have created a sculpture for Jephson Homes Housing Association at its new office in Brierley Hill.

The sculpture, made of more than 70 individually crafted glass bricks to reflect the area's heritage, was unveiled at the official opening of the association's new Black Country regional office in Narrowboat Way.

Pop princesses are on Parade

Screaming fans gave a rousing Black Country welcome to new girl group Parade when they arrived at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The new princesses of pop scored a top 10 hit with their first single Louder, earlier this year.

To cement their place in the charts Parade have hit the road supporting Ellie Goulding and Alexandra Burke at recent gigs.

Their latest stop brought the girls to the Brierley Hill shopping centre.

They were minus member Lauren Deegan who has injured her ankle while touring.

The other four, Emily Biggs, Bianca Claxton, Jessica Agombar and Sian Charlesworth said they were stunned by their reception. Hillcrest School pupils Emma Balcers, Hayleigh Gill and Samantha Harrison, all 15 from Netherton, waited more than two hours for Parade to arrive.

Samantha said: "They were really nice and asked us how we were. It's been worth the wait."

Brass concert

The Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass Band will perform a free show at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge on July 17 at 2.30-5pm.



Girl group Parade in front of their adoring fans at the Merry Hill centre

Blueprint for town drawn up

Blueprint to help shape the future of Stourbridge town centre is being drawn up by council chiefs. It is hoped the Area Action Plan will help guide new investment, identifying where new shops and homes will be located.

Bosses at Dudley Council have drafted "preferred options" for work they would like to see completed after speaking to traders and land owners and now plan to ask the public what they think about the ideas before they incorporate them into the document.

One of the ideas is to make the shopping area of the town centre more attractive and pedestrianised. Bosses have previously said they

would like to widen some of the narrow pavements on the High Street.

Another option could lead to improvements to the River Stour focusing on the area's nature conservation value and the provision of pathways along the river bank.

A series of "opportunity sites" could also be identified. They would look at how new residential developments could be provided.

The document is also set to consider providing space for creative and cultural industry around the Stourbridge Wharf area at Canal Street. Council bosses are set to launch a

public consultation on preferred options. A report was due before Dudley Council's Cabinet on June 29 recommends the consultation begins on July 11 and runs until August 22.

During that time the document could be viewed at Dudley Council, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and Dudley Council Plus as well as at main libraries and on the council's website.

Following the consultation a document will be prepared. It will be discussed further next spring, before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration in summer 2012.

thechronicle

Wife uses shoe to attack love rival

A mother-of-three used her shoe to attack a woman she claimed was having an affair with her husband – on the day she found she was pregnant again, a court heard.

Amanda Griffiths, of Thornhill Road, Quarry Bank, hit Jaime Hindmarsh with the shoe, dislocating a joint in her hand.

Griffiths, aged 29, admitted

assaulting Miss Hindmarsh causing actual bodily harm and damaging her car on May 22. Dudley magistrates adjourned sentencing until July 20.

Mrs Marion Bibb, prosecuting, said Miss Hindmarsh worked with Griffiths' husband Scott at the Brickmakers Arms pub in Quarry Bank. Scott had left his wife and asked to stay at Miss Hindmarsh's home and

his clothing was put into the boot of her car. Mrs Bibb said Griffiths kicked the car, denting the boot. Later Griffiths hit Miss Hindmarsh with one of her shoes causing her to need hospital treatment. Mr Suresh Joshi, defending, said Griffiths' husband had an affair with Miss Hindmarsh but they got back together. He kept promising to be faithful but was not.

Champion crushed to death by his car

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A motor racing champion died after being crushed by his prized Austin Healey as he worked on it, an inquest heard.

Stuart Bullas, aged 52, was discovered at his company, BG Bullas Ltd, in Fletcher Street, Lye, on April 10 by three of his friends who had become concerned after they were unable to contact him.



Stuart Bullas

Smethwick Coroners Court heard Mr Bullas, of Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, had been working on his Austin Healey Sprite at the factory when it slipped from a supporting belt and fell on top of him.

He was carrying out maintenance work on the vehicle, which had helped him become a three-time Hill Climb champion, in preparation for a race near Shrewsbury the following week.

The inquest was told the vehicle was being held up solely by the belt, connected to a crane available for use nearby.

Mr Bullas' elder brother, Graham, said that he hoped the tragedy would convince anyone working on vehicles to take extra care to avoid similar accidents from happening in the future.

Mr Bullas' body was discovered by one of his best friends, co-driver and co-owner of the car Robin Johnson. Mr Johnson wept as he told the hearing that he and his friend had been scheduled to meet on April 10 but he had been unable to contact him to arrange a time.

He had gone to the factory at the time they usually met but was concerned when the roller shutter was down.

Mr Johnson then tried at Mr Bullas' home but received



Stuart competing in his car

no response. Mr Johnson and two other friends of Mr Bullas then went back to the factory and called for a keyholder to open up the building where they found his body. Mr Johnson said: "My first thought was to get the car off him so I reconnected the belt and used the crane to lift it."

Paramedics were called but nothing could be done. Paying tribute Graham Bullas described his brother as a "kind and generous man" who did not have an enemy in the world.

"My brother did not have children of his own but my three-children adored him as did our two nieces by our elder brother. He will be deeply missed."

"Anybody working on a motor vehicle in the future who reads this sad story must take care to avoid such tragic accidents themselves. It has been truly difficult for us all and it could have been avoided."

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of accidental death at the end of yesterday's hearing and he said that the medical cause of death was traumatic asphyxia.

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Swimmers warned about river dangers

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Youths have been dicing with death by leaping into rivers and reservoirs during the spell of warm weather, police say.

Officers and Wyre Forest District Council's Ranger service, have issued urgent warnings.

They said swimming in open water was fraught with dangers. Besides the risks posed by currents in deep water, the sudden change in temperature when jumping in can cause an attack of the cramps, leading to people being unable to swim and sinking to the bottom.

Every summer police in Bewdley receive calls about people jumping off the bridge through the town into the River Severn.

Leaping

On June 27 – the hottest day of the year so far – a report was received about youths leaping into the reservoir at Trimpley, near Kidderminster.

Wyre Forest District Police Inspector Paul Crowley warned such larking about could end in death.

"It might be very inviting in warm weather but swimming in unauthorised and unsupervised stretches of river or other open water is fraught with danger," said Inspector Crowley.

Wyre Forest District Council's Ranger service looks after areas such as Paxton Marshes and Hurcott Pool in Kidderminster.

Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership chairperson Helen Dyke said: "Hidden obstructions can cause entanglement and sharp debris may cause a nasty wound, exposing someone to waterborne diseases."

A recent tragedy in Stourport also highlights the need to beware near water.

Robbie Fidge, aged 12, died after falling 20ft into a canal lock while riding his bike over a narrow bridge.

Plant hoping to be foam-ous



Carl Chinn opens the new foam centre with Mike Skidmore and Phil Pearson

Local historian Professor Carl Chinn was the guest of honour at the opening of a new recycling facility in the Black Country.

He was at Dart Products Ltd, Cradley Heath, to cut the ribbon at the firm's new polystyrene foam collection centre, the first of its kind in the West Midlands.

Bosses at the company, in Garratts Lane, say the new centre is among the first in the UK to accept food containers

including cups, plates and takeaway cartons. Items are recycled to become products such as garden furniture and building insulation.

Mr Chinn said: "It is a real coup that a company like Dart has opened its first recycling facility in the UK in the heart of the Black Country."

"Historically recycling has always gone on in the West Midlands and a centre like this is bringing the past, present and the future together."

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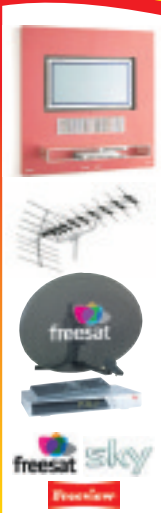
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thechronicle

Flood of donations after armed robbery

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Letters of support and donations flooded into Midlands Air Ambulance after an armed robbery in which staff were held hostage, bosses said.

Bosses say wellwishers have pledged to hold events to help raise funds after £12,000 was stolen. Raiders held 20 staff hostage at the organisation's Brierley Hill HQ before stealing the cash during the terrifying raid on June 21.

Bosses at the charity, solely funded by the public, said they received about £1,300 in donations in the week since news of the robbery first broke.

Midlands Air Ambulance needs £6 million a year to continue its work. Those donating so far include the Castle & Crystal Credit Union, Dudley, which has donated £250. A pub landlord has also made a £250 donation.

Charity spokesman Katy Meaney said: "We have had lots of letters from people who are planning to hold events in the future to help us raise funds and have been inundated with letters of support."

Taser

Three masked men with a taser gun burst into Midlands Air Ambulance's base and locked workers in a room before fleeing with cash in a member of staff's grey Peugeot 308.

No-one was hurt but staff at the site, on the Enterprise Trading Estate, Pedmore Road, were left traumatised and have been offered counselling.

Raiders were all black, in their 20s, and wearing scarves across their faces.

The getaway car was recovered in Dudley the following day by police.

Anyone with information to help the police investigation is urged to contact the Sandwell and Dudley team of the Force Criminal Investigation department at Harborne police station on 0345 113 5000 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bikers have helped raise £12,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance charity. More than 700 enthusiasts biked across the Midlands to raise the funds.

The ride, which started at the Worcester Warriors Stadium, exceeded the £10,000 target organisers had aimed for. Riders were simply asked to make a donation, but many also raised sponsorship to take part.

Fundraising manager Stef Langford-Brown said: "Bikers have always been huge supporters of the charity. More than 50 per cent of the airlifts the Midlands Air Ambulance attends are road traffic accidents, and the biking community understands that the work done by the charity is invaluable."

Friends head for hills



Walkers Ian Rogers, left, and Jon Harris are among those who will be limbering up for the Three Peaks Challenge

An adventurous band of Black Country friends will be heading for the hills this weekend in a 24-hour fundraising challenge.

The seven-strong team from Stourbridge, Halesowen, Wolverhampton and Sutton Coldfield will be attempting the national Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society on July 9.

Walkers and friends Ian Rogers, Adam Fletcher, Mark Serdetschny, Steven Bloomer, Corinne Mullard, Stuart Patterson and Jon Harris hope to scale Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon within 24 hours.

See www.justgiving.com/teams/3-peaks to sponsor or for more information.

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thechronicle

Chance meeting that sparked a friendship



Captain Gemma Leek and Captain Sally Mullen

West Midlands soldier Gemma Leek went to serve in Afghanistan – and met a neighbour she had not seen for 13 years in the queue for lunch.

The 28-year-old Captain lived just yards away from Sally Mullen throughout their childhood and both went to the same school and Air Cadet unit before losing touch when she joined the army at the age of 15. She explained: "We just bumped into each other at the Camp Bastion cook house. I was waiting in line for lunch."

"Most women change their hair styles every five minutes but luckily ours have remained pretty much the same and we had no trouble recognising each other. It was an amazing moment and we have been catching up on the gossip ever since."

Captain Mullen, aged 26, said: "I had only just arrived and was waiting to get my food when I saw Sally frantically waving at me. It was lovely to see a familiar face and an awfully long way to travel to renew our friendship after all those years, especially since we had spent more than 10 years living just yards apart."

Training

The pair attended Waseley Hill High School near their homes in Rubery and went to the local Air Cadets training centre before losing touch when Cpt Leek, now with the Adjutant General Corps based at Aldershot.

Cpt Mullen went to King Edwards College, Stourbridge and university in Cardiff before training at Sandhurst and in September marries Naval Lieutenant Andy Young whom she met on a gap year in Vietnam eight years ago.

She has recently been working at Frimley Park Hospital in Aldershot, unaware that Cpt Leek lives and is employed nearby. Camp Bastion is the main British military base in Afghanistan.

Accommodating 21,000 people it is situated northwest of Lashkar Gah and is the logistics hub for operations in Helmand. It is the largest British overseas military camp built since the Second World War.

Manning the guns to keep comrades safe from attackers

As the Royal Navy's flagship HMS Albion manoeuvres towards crisis-hit Libya, two sailors from the Black Country take their place at the helm of the ship's machine guns.

Their task is a simple one: use the weapons to protect their colleagues from any incoming assaults on the ship or on any British attack helicopters.

It is a dangerous job but one both Naval Airman Mark Lawrence, from Cradley Heath, and Naval Airman Katie Village, from Stourbridge, enjoy hugely.

HMS Albion, a 18,500-ton assault ship has been acting as the floating command platform for all military operations in Libya.

Earlier last month, Apache helicopters were launched against military targets in Libya and it was the job of NA Lawrence and NA Village to protect them as they were dispatched.

Threat

"During the first Apache missions, HMS Albion moved toward the Libyan coast where the threat level is higher," said 23-year-old NA Village, a former pupil at Grange School in Stourbridge.

"Mark and I were manning weapons on the upper deck from where we could see the lights along the Libyan shoreline."

"It was very surreal – it was the kind of thing you would normally see on the news, but we were watching it for real."

Helping protect the people of Libya is a world away from NA Village's previous job. She started her working career as a greengrocer.

Now, she is part of an elite team of maritime personnel that includes helicopter crews and Royal Marines. As part of her role, she is also involved as an aircraft handler, trained to move and fuel helicopters and to respond to fires and other emergencies.

"I really enjoy working outdoors on the flight deck, in the sunshine surrounded by the sea," she said. "I'd hate to be stuck below deck in an office all day."

Meanwhile NA Lawrence, 25, a former pupil at Leasowes Community College in Halesowen, said being at the centre of military operations in Libya had ensured he was always kept busy. "At the beginning of the deploy-



Naval Airman Katie Village and NA Mark Lawrence

ment HMS Albion dep-arted the UK with four helicopters," he said.

"As she is primarily designed to carry Royal Marines and their landing craft, she does not normally carry this many. We've also hosted visiting helicopters from France and Saudi Arabia."

Exceptionally

"It's meant that the whole aviation team has been exceptionally busy, but it's great because I much prefer to have a hands-on role."

HMS Albion has been away from the conflict area of Libya, but that does not mean its crew will get a rest.

They were docked in Abu Dhabi ahead of its involvement in a series of amphibious and land-based exercises

called Sea Khanjar. The military exercises, with forces from the United Arab Emirates, will continue until July 6 – before heading back to the UK through the Suez Canal. HMS Albion may have taken the two Black Country sailors all around the world, but for the pair, they look forward to nothing more than returning to their roots.

"I miss family and friends most when I'm at sea," said NA Lawrence. "I always enjoy going for a drink at The Waterfall in Cradley Heath whenever I'm back home."

Meanwhile NA Village added: "The best things about coming from the Black Country is walks in Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge and shopping trips to Merry Hill."

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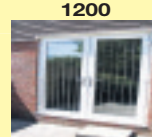


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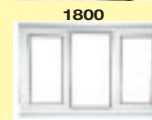
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Horses are given new identities

Some of the horses that have been plaguing the Pennnett, Brierley Hill and Russells Hall areas have been taken into special police protection and are being given new identities.

The horses are now happily grazing at a top secret location deep in the countryside.

A horse professional – given the codename "Brenda" is to guard against any retaliation from disgruntled owners – they are being fed and nursed through painful conditions.

They will then be given a horse passport, micro-chipped and trained before being offered to new, responsible owners.

So far 31 horses have been seized by police, mainly in the Brierley Hill and Pennnett area, since April 16, after a new arrangement with Dudley Council ended months of talks on tackling the problem. Four ponies were later reclaimed by legitimate owners, eight have been rehomed and

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19 are still being cared for by "Brenda". She offered her land and services because she could not stand the thought of the animals suffering.

The new arrangement is on a six-month trial but Dudley Council refuses to say how much the service is costing as it may ultimately be put out to public tender and the information would then be commercially sensitive.

But already it is paying dividends – with reports of the number of calls about strays falling from around 200 a month to 30.

However, there are still thought to be around 40 horses roaming the area.

The police will seize horses only if they are on the road. To report a stray call police on 0845 113 5000.

And anyone wishing to give a home to one of the strays should contact Sgt Tomkinson on 0845 113 5000, ext 7902 6711, or email c.tomkinson@west-midlands.police.uk

Students' artwork goes on display



Design student Clair Welch

Students at Halesowen College have been exhibiting the coursework in their end-of-year display.

The show features 20 displays ranging from a collection of 1930s diaries to a complex contraption for transporting water.

It has been organised to celebrate the end of the course and show off what they have been working on in recent months. Each of the student artists has been given the freedom to choose their own theme and use any materials they wish. Jade Cooper, 19, of Tividale, found a box of someone's personal belongings in a charity shop in Bournville, Birmingham and used them in her display.

Diaries

It contained letters and diaries by a couple from Kings Heath, Birmingham, ranging from the 1930s to the 1980s. Jade has reproduced some of the artefacts and made a montage piecing together aspects of their lives.

She has also painted portraits of the couple using two small photographs which were in the box.

Meanwhile fellow students Christopher Perks, 20, of Quarry Bank, has built a network of pipes and tubes to feed water around, controlled by levers and pulleys. He was inspired by the board game Mouse Trap and "the different forces that can be created by a wacky machine", he said. Claire Welch, 18, of Oldbury, has taken images from Ladybird children's books, painted them on a tea set and surrounded them with "cynical" messages.



Jade Cooper with her work

School choir on song for its big concert



Front left Jasmine Sangha, Lauren Cox, James Cahalane and Harvey Williams, all aged eight, with fellow pupils at Lutley Primary School

Young performers from a Halesowen primary school took to the stage in Birmingham. The Year 3 choir at Lutley Primary appeared at the National Festival of Music For Youth.

The choir took part in a regional festival at Netherton Arts Centre in March and the organisers were so impressed, they asked the choir to sing at the Birmingham event.

They performed at the Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, alongside groups from across the country in the infants and juniors section of the week-long festival. The choir is made up of 30 youngsters between the ages of seven and eight.

However, the whole year group, made up of 85 children, have learned the songs which are being performed in their music lessons at the school.

The choir have taken part in a number of performances during the year, and Margaret Jones, music co-ordinator at the school said: "They are so enthusiastic."

Road closure

A road in Stourbridge will be closed for three days while resurfacing work is carried out. Foxcote Lane in Wollescote will be shut from July 15 to July 17. Vehicle access to premises will be allowed.

Chippy plan

Plans to turn a former Wordsley pub into a fish and chip shop look set for approval. The plan is to turn the Mad O'Rourke's Bar and Grill, into a Goodies Fish and Chip shop. It will be discussed on July 11.

Actors in fundraising boost to help charity

An amateur dramatic group in South Staffordshire is breaking new ground by donating the proceeds from its next show to charity. The New Kinver Players will perform A Taste of Summer on July 8 and 9.

Their performances will support MacMillan Cancer Support and Help For Heroes. Chairman of New Kinver Players Penny Cooper said: "We will use the talent within the group to celebrate summer in a slightly different way, with all of the proceeds going to our two chosen charities". A Taste of Summer is a light-hearted and uplifting selection of playlets, readings and poems.

Performances will take place at 8pm at The Edward Marsh Centre, Kinver. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the ticket secretary. People can telephone 01384 872197 to book places.

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Suspects caught on camera are sought

Police are trying to trace these men in connection with a spate of unrelated crimes – a motorist was held up at knife-point; items were stolen from a petrol station and electrical goods were taken from a supermarket.

The incidents are not thought to be linked but police have released CCTV images of people they want to speak to in connection with them.

The images were released after the BP service station in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, was targeted by two separate thieves.

In the first theft on May 30, a man entered the store, took four bottles of engine oil from a shelf, and walked out without paying.

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Then on June 8, a motorist filled up a silver Honda with fuel worth £71.01, and drove off without paying.

The theft of a driver's wallet near Stourbridge prompted police there to release an e-fit of a man they are trying to trace.

Driving

The incident happened at about 1.30pm on June 10 when the motorist, a man in his 30s, who was driving a white Ford Focus, pulled up at traffic lights at the Hackman's Gate crossroads between Blakedown and Beibroughton.

The thief pulled open the driver's door, threatened him with a knife and demanded his wallet.

The robber had a small black dog

with him. Police also want to speak to two men after electrical equipment was stolen from Asda, Merry Hill.

The men were seen hanging around the electrical aisle at around 7.30pm on June 7. One man took a video set-top box from the shelf and concealed it in the other man's bag. A 19-inch Luxor LCD black TV set was also picked up and the men walked out of the store without paying.

The theft happened at around 7.30pm on June 7.

Anyone with information on the supermarket theft can contact the Brierley Hill neighbourhood team on 0345 113 5000.

Anyone who can help with the wallet theft is asked to call detectives in Kidderminster on 0300 333 3000.

And for the petrol station thefts people can call Halesowen police station on 0345 113 5000.



A suspect in the Asda electrical theft



The second Asda suspect



An efit of the thief who took the wallet



The suspect taking oil at the BP garage

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FUN female, uniformed, civil servant, attractive, average build, GSOH, seeks tall, professional, N/S male with GSOH for relationship. Willenhall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367485

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hour-glass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368689 


5FT 11ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, fun. W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743


BLONDE bombshell looking for some extra curricula activities with male 28-45 no children, asking just for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370071

34YR old single petite blonde, loves meals in/out, seeks honest male with GSOH to enjoy adult friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370073


MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317 


25YR old single mum, outgoing with lots of interest, including football, looking for likeminded male for meals out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370065


VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311 


LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428 


SLIM feminine brunette 22, big brown eyes, attractive, active and a nurse, looking for older male for fun, TLC and more 30-58. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365059 

BLONDE very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367981 


SLIM attractive lady looking for male who appreciates fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366007 

ONCE bitten twice shy! Just looking for fun. Attractive, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364307 

NAUGHTY female 50 WLTm male 69yr plus, who knows what he is doing for mutual appreciation and fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365061 


30YR old attractive confident business woman, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358137 

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277 


BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367021 


SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366295 

CURVED red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432 

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368429 

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033


RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755 


BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528 

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Shropshire Area Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993

DIY gardening, friendly geek required by friendly 59yr old attractive teacher, soul-mate to share sunny days and starry nights in my hilltop cottage garden. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365137

32YR old female, brunette, N/S, likes walks, concerts, theatre, seeks male 29-35 for friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 309995

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362769 

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651 


BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852 

WENDY dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589 

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 10ins plus for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359491

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399 

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241


WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373 

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTm very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751


SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761 


SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355959

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867 

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes country-side, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329919 

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine, caring male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354533

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354183


SINGLE mum, new to area, red hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks handsome guy 30-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346715

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765 

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, WLTm gentleman, 70-78 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765 

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491 


ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335095 

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573 

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTm attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easy-going and N/S. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265


ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330101

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275

PRINCE wanted, must be fit, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465

FUN loving, attractive 65yr old widow likes socialising, meals out and dancing WLTm a male with a GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 135005

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, genuine, caring male, 45-55 for fun and friendship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 347799

LISA 32, 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713 


GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465 

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 304135 

MATURE widow, likes sight seeing, coast, gardening, easygoing, seeks gent, 60-68 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368226

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380918 


LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTm gentleman, 70-78 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765 

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, WLTm gentleman, 70-78 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021


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SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491 

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ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

LIZ 65, slim, green eyes, likes gardening, walks, seeks male with GSOH for friendship and good dates. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336767 

YOUNG at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks male friend to enjoy outings and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335821

TRACEY seeks special N/S, easygoing, loving, caring, loyal male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335781

GENUINE West Bromwich female, smoker, many interests, seeks fit male, driver preferred for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334841

SUSIE 35, 3 children, likes reading, walks, dancing, cooking, seeks male/single dad, 35-45 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333365

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333183

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dance, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional male, N/S for loving relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323439


WIDOW black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, music, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332321

FEMININE pre op TS, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315195

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes wining/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669

ATTRACTIVE widow, 58, 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm gent, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361076 

SHY lady 56, seeks similar natured, wealthy, tall male who loves small dogs, driving, Dorset. DIY dining out and feeding the ducks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367783

BLACK female, medium build,

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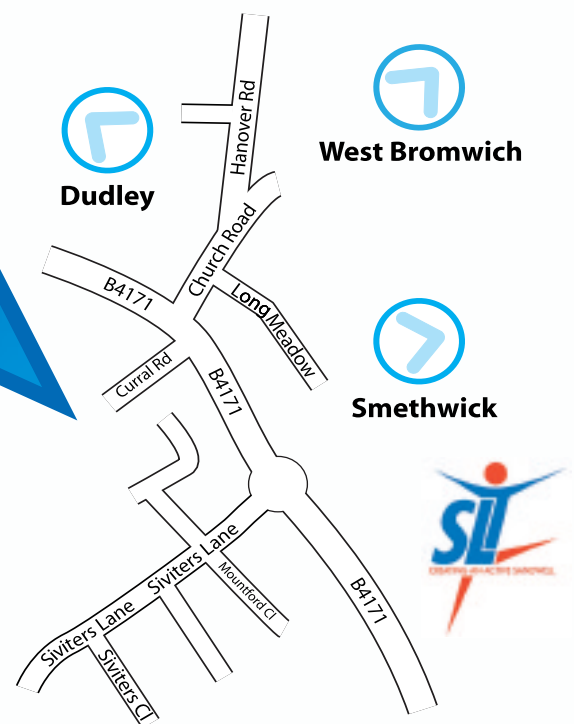
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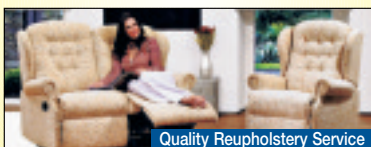
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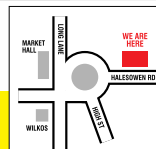
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M is for mystery as mother admits fraud

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A mother-of-three cashed four cheques totalling £10,000 from the account of a local firm of solicitors through a man known only as "M", who was thought to work at the company, a court heard.

But Debbie Smith, aged 33, was paid only £50 per cheque she cashed, Dudley magistrates were told.

Smith, of Blowers Green, Dudley, declined to give police officers the identity of the person who had given her the cheques, saying she believed her family may be in danger.

Smith admitted four charges of fraud by cashing a cheque to the value of £2,500 from the account of Peter Chahal Solicitors, intending to gain the money for another person. The firm, in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, is now closed.

Investigate

The sole practitioner of the company, Peter Chahal, said after the court hearing last week that he had brought in police and the Law Society to investigate a fraud on his firm and would not comment further.

The case was adjourned until July 15 for a probation report.

Miss Val Hart, prosecuting, said Smith was one of a number of people interviewed as part of a larger police investigation into fraudulent activity involving cheque books belonging to the solicitors.

Miss Hart added that, when asked for the identity of the person who had given her the cheques she refused, saying she thought her family may be in danger. Smith told police she gave the money to a person she called "M".

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said: "The truth of all of this is that this lady was clearly recruited by someone in a position of some apparent authority in the practice of solicitors that has been mentioned."

"Someone with a silver tongue persuaded her to become involved."

Desert dash due for Mike



Mike Crannage prepares for his gruelling desert dash

A Mayor's attendant is set to conquer one of the world's biggest deserts in a solo charity run.

Mike Crannage will brave soaring temperatures in a 155-mile run through the Sahara Desert on his own. The council worker is hoping to raise money for the Dudley Group of

Hospitals Charity and The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. The 52-year-old said: "I like the idea of doing things that are out of the ordinary."

To sponsor Mike in his challenge he will start on October 8 visit <http://mikecrannage.moonfruit.com>

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Ke\$ha

Ke\$ha – Animal + Cannibal (RCA)

The bratty wanna-be bad girl of pop got plenty of attention, stateside at least, with *Animal* her debut album 18 months ago, for which she boasted having a potential 200 tracks. Funny then that the next 'album' is a 'deluxe' version of the same debut album with the additional of just an ep's worth of new stuff. With her vocodered-auto-tuned vocals it's hard to tell what Ke\$ha really sounds like. Bit like a whiny Pink. If Katy Perry is a teaser than Ke\$ha likes to deliver the real rude stuff. It's a popular approach, chavvy electro dance pop, a pale shadow of Britney when she was at her best and without an ounce of Lady Gaga's talent, but it's yielded massive hits such as *Tik Tok*, *Your Love Is My Drug* and *We R Who We R*. But with lyrics like 'even my dirty laundry has started to smell like you,' I would recommend keeping a sick bag handy.

Selena Gomez and the Scene – When The Sun Goes Down (Hollywood)

Selena Gomez

The third album in three years from the Disney princess and she is now sounding more like a bona fide pop star than that wisecracking girl from *Wizards of Waverley Place*. There's plenty of potential hits here including the title song, *That's More Like It* (co-written by Katy Perry), *Bang Bang Bang* (which sounds a little like *La Roux*), *We Own The Night* (co-written by and sung with Pixie Lott), and *Whiplash* (co-written by Britney Spears).

Death Cab For Cutie – Codes And Keys (Atlantic)

Formed 14 years ago on the north-west coast of the US, Death Cab's rise to success has been slow but progressive, finally making a commercial breakthrough in their homeland with fifth studio album *Plans*. Featuring the vocals of Ben

'classic' five-piece line-up fronted by Fred Durst. It is a hard and heavy expletive sound that will be heard from most US soldier beat boxes in dusty death zones.

Dave Stewart – The Blackbird Diaries (Weapons of Mass Entertainment)

The lesser-known half of The Earthmatics loves country rock and has headed to Nashville to record his first solo album in a long time, so if you're expecting synths and Annie Lennox, forget it. What you do get is some well-produced songs with Stewart's poor man's Clapton guitar and some star turns from such singers as Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks (who co-wrote duet *Cheaper Than Free*), Martina McBride (whose husband John associate-produced), Californian pop star Colbie Caillat and, on two tracks, those rather excellent young exponents of old time country The Secret Sisters. The ladies do show up his bland vocals. And though Stewart has a way with a melody, his lyrics are poor. Best song is *Worth The Waiting* For and that's because Bob Dylan co-wrote it.



Death Cab For Cutie

ALBUM REVIEWS

Bad girl and bands on brink of the big time

Alice Gold – Seven Rainbows (Fiction)

A decade that's been blessed with a stunning array of new female talent continues with the potent vocals of Alice Gold, pitched somewhere between the grit of PJ Harvey and love-liness of Katie Melua. This is pop with psychedelic hints and a few dark undercurrents, from the French 60s pop influenced *Runaway Love* via the Jefferson Airplane-like *Orbiter* and the menacing *How Long Have These Streets Been Empty*.



Max McElligott

Wolf Gang – Suego Faults (Atlantic)

A strong buzz justifiably surrounds this London-based symphonic pop/rock outfit which is a vehicle for the talent of Max McElligott. His musical reference points include Talking Heads, The Killers, Tears For Fears, The Editors and Ben Folds but most importantly also has something unique in his yearning, electro-rock wall of sound. Check them out at the Weston Park leg of the V Festival and you can download third single *The King and All of His Men* or hold on for the debut album's release on July 25.

Simple Plan – Get Your Heart On! (Atlantic)

Fourth studio album from the Canadian pop-punkers is a solid set of melodic rockers, more than a match for the likes of McFly but not in the Green Day league, and features some guest singers including Natasha Bedingfield (*Jet Lag*) and All Time Low's Alex Gaskarth on *Freaking Me Out*. Other stand-out tracks include *Can't Keep My Hands Off You* and *Loser of the Year*. Strange that we've become such a celeb-centred society that they can sing lyrics about not getting enough messages on their BlackBerry, jet lag and having a fridge full of Champagne without alienating their listeners.



Simple Plan

Sophie Ellis-Bextor – Make A Scene (Essential)

It seems like a long time since *Murder on the Dancefloor* (and supporting *Erasure* on *Cannock Chase* last month she had to contend with mud on the dancefloor). Plenty of quality songwriters and producers are involved in this album, including Freemasons, Calvin Harris, Cathy Dennis and Armin Van Buuren. But there's a darn sight more misses than hits. The most potential as a hit is *Heartbreak (Make Me A Dancer)* which is a nicely dramatic slice of electro pop with a hint of *Blondie* about it.



All Time Low

All Time Low – Dirty Work (DGC)

Punchy punky power pop from a band that formed at high school in Maryland USA. This is their fourth album but the first on a major label and likely to catapult them to the forefront of the pop punk scene that's fast becoming the musical mainstream stateside. Raunchy, melodic with a bit of angst but not enough to make things miserable. Includes the single *I Feel Like Dancin'* and probable future hit *Time-Bomb*.

Leon Burakowski

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Holly Wright is in the national finals of the Festival4Stars Singing sensation Holly heads for the UK final

A BLACK Country schoolgirl hopes to hit the right notes when she heads to Scotland to represent her region in a singing competition.

Holly Wright, aged 11, from Forest Drive, Old Hill, sailed through the Festival4Stars auditions singing The Wind Beneath My Wings. The Netherbrook Primary pupil saw off competition from people three years her senior to win the Solo Singing 14 and Under category. She went on

to beat rivals in the region's final last month at the Hilton Hotel in Birmingham to seal her place as Midlands representative for the prestigious final in November.

The competition has had celebrity judges including Blue heart-throb Duncan James and Bucks Fizz singer Cheryl Baker.

Mother Michelle Wright said: "I'm very proud of her. She's only had singing lessons for 18 months."

Six hundred children sing in Latin for 'live and kicking' composer

MORE than 600 primary and secondary school singers from across Birmingham will have the chance to impress world-renowned composer Karl Jenkins when he attends their performance of his *Stabat Mater* at Symphony Hall on Monday, July 11.

This is the second year the composer has given his commitment and support to Town Hall and Symphony Hall's *Sing for All: Creative Foundations*, an experience he described last year as "a revelation".

The concert is the grand finale of the project and the result of many months' work by the schoolchildren and teachers to learn the large scale choral piece, which is sung in Latin.

Since January, teachers have attended a series of workshops at Symphony Hall with musical director John Gibbons, who has been giving professional training and advice.

This, in turn, assists the teachers in their rehearsals with the children who need to overcome the significant challenges of learning such a large scale work intended for adult choirs and sung in an unfamiliar language.

Sing for All: Creative Foundations gives the youngsters an opportunity to strive for the highest levels of personal attainment and, for most, it will be their first concert experience, performing with a professional orchestra and

singers in a world class venue.

Though rooted in the classical tradition, Karl Jenkins's music is infused with different world cultures, jazz traditions and strong rhythmic elements making it particularly appealing to younger people.

Offers

And, as Karl Jenkins says, "it's nice for them to meet a composer who's still alive and kicking!"

Organised by Town Hall and Symphony Hall's Education and Community Department, *Sing for All* offers professional singing training

and performance opportunities to all parts of the community, with funding from the Peter and Jane How Trust, patrons of the singing programme.

The programme is designed to support amateur singing in the region, creating a legacy for the future of choirs. *Sing for All* reached 1,500 people in 2010 in two projects.

Tickets for Monday's concert are priced £5 (plus transaction fee) are available from the box office on 0121 780 3333 or via www.thsh.co.uk website.

Twin roles in a theatre classic

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company is on the lookout for male twins to star in its production of the dramatic musical *Blood Brothers*.

The group is preparing to perform Willy Russell's popular West End hit in November and are starting rehearsals soon.

They are hoping to find twins - or at least two very similar looking men - aged

around 25 to 30-years-old.

Open auditions are being held for the parts of Eddie and Mickey at St Joseph's RC Primary School in Lea Vale Road, Norton, Stourbridge, and the auditions will be on Monday, July 11, at 7.30pm.

The play will be staged at Stourbridge Town Hall, from November 24 to 26.

Further information about the play and parts available it, call 01562 885578.

Second helpings of Dinner

VICTORIA Wood's popular TV sit-com *Dinnerladies* makes the transition to stage with Andrew Dunn and Sue Devany reprising their telly roles at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday, July 18, to Saturday, July 23.



Staffordshire County Councillor Patrick Corfield takes a close look at the exhibition of Anglo-Saxon gold

Golden hoard of Mercian treasure goes on tour of Staffordshire venues

TREASURES from the Staffordshire Hoard have gone on display in Stafford for the first time as the relics, valued at £3.3 million, go on tour.

More than 40 of the gold and silver items are being exhibited at the Shire Hall Gallery until July 24. They went on show last Saturday (July 2).

The Seventh Century relics were uncovered in a farmer's field at Hammerwich two years ago. It was the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver ever unearthed.

The metal detector used to find them, by Terry Herbert, is also on display. The Hoard on Tour will move to Lich-

field Cathedral from July 30 to August 21 and then on to Tamworth Castle between August 27 and September 18.

The exhibition will also tell how archaeologists worked in secret to unearth the treasure.

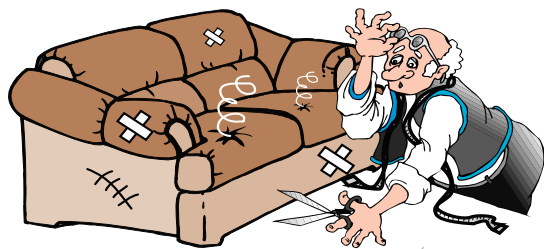
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The exhibition can be viewed for free but 45-minute slots must be booked in advance at www.staffordshire.gov.uk /hoard or by calling the gallery on 01785 278345.

Tickets can be booked up to 4pm on the day before a visit.

Mayflower Control Ltd has been appointed to guard the hoard during its Shire Hall stint.

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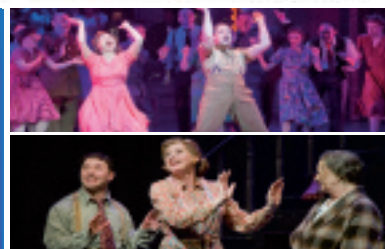
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Cameron Mackintosh's new hit British musical *BETTY BLUE EYES* has just opened to rave reviews in London's glittering West End. It's 1947 and excitement is growing as the good folk of Shepardsford, Yorkshire prepare to celebrate the forthcoming Royal Wedding of Princess Elizabeth to Philip Mountbatten. Determined to defy strict rationing measures and mark the special occasion accordingly, members of the town's Council are fattening up a highly illegal pig called Betty for a lavish banquet in honour of the royal couple.

Rejected by the town for being nobodies, Gilbert and his social climbing wife Joyce resolve to steal the pig - but will it save Betty's bacon? Sarah Lancashire and Reece Shearsmith lead a marvellous cast including, Olivier Award winners

Adrian Scarborough and David Bamber and, of course, Betty as herself.

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Choice



TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT

BBC1, 7.10pm

At couple of years ago, John Barrowman was so ubiquitous, some people started to wonder if BBC actually stood for Barrowman Broadcasting Corporation. This week he's back with a bang along with this Saturday night show. If you haven't seen the previous series, it gives members of the public the chance to make their dreams come true - think of it as John's Fix It with no medallions and fewer tracksuits. There's a definite musical theme to the wishes being granted in this first instalment, as Dolly Parton conducts a masterclass for one of her biggest fans.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Good Cook. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 12.10 Formula 1: The British Grand Prix Qualifying. Jake Humphrey presents live coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). 2.40 Live Golf: The Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine introduces further coverage of the third round. 5.20 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.40 Walk on the Wild Side. (R)

6.10 Total Wipeout. Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram host as 20 more contestants compete in physically demanding games on the purpose-built obstacle course.

7.10 Tonight's the Night. New series. Entertainment show, presented by John Barrowman, with Dolly Parton and the Wanted.

8.10 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show, including the all-important numbers.

9.00 Casualty. Adam becomes involved in the case of two warring brothers.

9.50 Lee Mack's All Star Cast. With Katie Price, Rhod Gilbert, Theo Paphitis, Danny Bhoj and Scouting for Girls.

10.30 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update.

10.50 Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. With Noel Fielding, Seann Walsh, Mike Gunn and Hal Crutenden. (R)

11.35 FILM: Dark Water. (2005) Horror remake, starring Jennifer Connelly; Weatherview.

1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Homes Under the Hammer. 12.50 Live Golf: The Scottish Open. Coverage of the third round. 2.40 Film: Kramer vs Kramer. (1979) Oscar-winning drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. 4.20 Comedy Connections. (R) 4.50 Life Beyond the Box: Norman Stanley Fletcher. (R) 5.40 Porridge. (R)

6.10 Flog It! Experts Nigel Smith and Thomas Plant value the public's antiques in Stockport, Greater Manchester, while presenter Paul Martin pays a visit to a drum-maker. (R)

7.10 Dad's Army. The platoon spends a night in a spooky house. (R)

7.40 Vincent Van Gogh: Painted with Words. Drama-documentary depicting the Dutch artist's life using his own words as chronicled in 18 years of letters. (R)

9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Chris Addison. (R)

9.45 Secrets of the Pop Song. Mark Ronson helps Guy Chambers write the elusive breakthrough single.

10.45 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1976. Documentary examining how British pop culture changed during 1976.

11.35 The Kennedys. The Cuban missile crisis threatens to bring about a war. (R)

12.20 The Kennedys. (R) 1.05 Film: Honeydripper. (2007) Drama, starring Danny Glover.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 House of Gigg. (R) 9.25 Coronation Street. 11.45 This Morning: Saturday. 12.45 The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 1.15 The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 1.45 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner. (1985) Hercule Poirot mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. 3.55 Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.15 Regional Programmes. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 6.45 You've Been Framed! Crazy cats and daft dogs. (R)

7.15 Odd One In. With Stephen K Amos and Stacey Solomon.

8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us. Four more acts, including an award-winning female magician, try to outwit the illusionists with mind-boggling tricks, in the hope of landing a gig in Las Vegas.

9.00 The Marriage Ref. Jack Whitehall, Sarah Millican and Eamonn Holmes tackle three domestic disputes, including a boyfriend's relentless pranks and a wife obsessed by Donny Osmond.

10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 FILM: Ocean's Twelve. (2004) Crime caper sequel, starring George Clooney.

12.35 The Cube Celebrity Special: McFly. (R) 1.30 The Zone: ITV News: Headlines. 3.30 In Plain Sight. 4.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Film Show. (R) 7.00 British Formula 3 International Series. 7.25 The Grid. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.50 T4: Friends. (R) 9.20 T4: Hollyoaks Music Show. 9.55 T4: Smallville. (R) 10.50 T4: Friends. (R) 11.20 T4: Style the Nation. 12.20 T4: Dirty Sexy Things. 1.20 The TV Book Club. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 4.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Sarah Rothwell hosts the final party in Bolton.

6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.10 4thought.tv. How a belief in God transformed a man's life. (R)

7.15 FILM: The Simpsons Movie. (2007) Springfield faces destruction after pollution caused by Homer provokes the wrath of the government. Animated comedy, with the voices of Dan Castellaneta and Julie Kavner.

9.00 Camelot. Guinevere sets out with Arthur to visit her dying father, while a crime from Sybil's past jeopardises Morgan's plans. Fantasy adventure, starring Jamie Campbell Fower.

10.00 FILM: Gangs of New York. (2002) Historical drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis.

1.10 Film: Internal Affairs 2. (2003) Crime thriller sequel, starring Ed Harris. 3.15 Bob's Burgers. 3.40 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.30 One Tree Hill. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Pawn Stars. (R) 10.30 Eddie Stobbs Trucks and Trailers. (R) 11.30 Danger: Diggers at Work. (R) 12.30 Rosamunde Pilcher's Summer. (R) 2.20 Film: King Solomon's Mines. (1950) Adventure, with Stewart Granger and Deborah Kerr. 4.20 Film: Random Hearts. (1999) Romantic drama, with Harrison Ford.

6.55 5 News Weekend. 7.00 Cricket. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fifth and concluding match of the series at Old Trafford, the tourists' final fixture in England this year.

7.55 NCIS. A commander who knows the location of a shipment of nuclear fuel rods is abducted, and the team is called in to try to identify the kidnapper. Guest starring Gae Elton. (R)

8.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A cocktail waitress is killed by a shark in the swimming pool of a Las Vegas hotel, and the team suspects the rivalry between two casino moguls may be at the heart of the mystery. (R)

9.50 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A student counsellor is murdered.

10.45 CSI: NY. A street dancer is shot dead in a hotel room. (R)

11.45 Forensic Files. Finding the killer of an estate agent. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.15 The FBI Files. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2 7.15 Film: Jurassic Park III (2001) 9.00 Film: Practical Magic (1998) 11.10 Film: Analyze This (1999)

ITV3 1.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) 4.00 Film: Columbo: A Bird in the Hand (1992) 6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 11.00 Wycliffe

ITV4 2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage eight from Aiguard to Super-Besse Sancy. 4.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights 5.30 Police, Camera, Action! 6.00 The Professionals 7.00 Cycling: Tour de France 8.00 Freddie Flintoff Versus the World 9.00 Film: The Jerk (1979) 10.55 Film: Barbarella (1967)

BBC THREE 7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Friendly Fires & N-Dubz @ T 9.00 Chase and Status & The Strokes @ T 10.00 Coldplay Live @ T

BBC FOUR 7.00 The Blue Planet 8.00 The Perfect Suit 9.00 Wallander 10.30 Timeshift: Hotel Deluxe 11.10 The Perfect Suit

E4 2.15 Hollyoaks 4.50 Friends 6.00 One Tree Hill 6.55 The Big Bang Theory 7.55 How I Met Your Mother 8.50 Friends 10.00 Film: Chain Reaction (1996)

FILM4 3.00 James and the Giant Peach (1996) 4.45 Local Hero (1983) Comedy drama, starring Peter Riegert. 6.55 The Perfect Catch (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Jimmy Fallon and Drew Barrymore. 9.00 High Crimes (2002) A leading attorney fights to prove her husband's innocence after the military accuses him of killing villagers in El Salvador. Thriller, starring Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman. 11.15 The Hills Have Eyes (2006) Horror remake, starring Aaron Stanford.

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Choice



T4 ON THE BEACH

Channel 4, 1.40pm

The summer officially gets underway in Weston-super-Mare as this musical extravaganza rolls into town. The show promises the airing of more hit singles than even Simon Cowell would know what to do with. Speaking of the moneybags mogul, X Factor-approved acts appearing this year include JLS and Cher Lloyd. Nicola Roberts also performs, hoping to replicate the solo success of Girls Aloud bandmate Cheryl Cole. Recent chart-toppers Jessie J, Jason Derulo and Example also take the stage. More big names including Katy B, the Wanted, Tinny Stryder and McFly also hit the stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 The Politics Show: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.10 Formula 1: The British Grand Prix Live. Coverage from Silverstone. (Start-time 1.00pm). 3.30 EastEnders. 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 My Family. Susan is accused of sexual harassment at work. (R)

6.05 Horrible Histories with Stephen Fry. Emperor Elagabalus hosts a dinner party on Roman Come Dine with Me. 6.35 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 7.00 Fake or Fortune? A painting that could be the work of Rembrandt. Last in the series.

8.00 Countryfile. John Craven travels to the Cairngorms in Scotland to reflect on some of the team's most memorable visits to British rivers and mountains. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 The World's Most Expensive Paintings. Alastair Sooke tracks down the 10 most costly paintings to sell at auction and investigates the stories behind the astronomical prices that are paid for some pieces of art.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 10.25 Seve: The Legend. Tribute to golf star Severiano Ballesteros, who died in May. 11.25 Regional Programmes.

12.15 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) 1.15 The Apprentice: The Final Five. (R) 2.15 Holby City. (R) 3.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 10.25 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 11.30 This Morning: Sunday. 12.30 Dinner Date. (R) 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.35 Survival: Tales from the Wild. 2.35 Inspector Morse. (R) 4.35 Midsomer Murders. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. A comparison of supercars the McLaren MP4-12C and Ferrari 458, the Range Rover Evoque is road-tested and Formula 1 world champion Sebastian Vettel drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Coast. The team explores the Welsh coast, hearing about a tsunami that hit 400 years ago, how Anglesey inspired the design of the Land Rover and why Wales is similar to Mars.

10.00 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Micky Flanagan and Jack Whitehall offer their opinions of the past week's world events on the topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)

10.30 FILM: In the Loop. (2009) A witless government minister gets out of his depth in international politics after suggesting a war is imminent. Satirical comedy, starring Peter Capaldi and Tom Hollander.

12.15 FILM: The Front Line. (2006) Crime thriller, starring Eriq Ebouaney. 1.45 BBC News. 3.10 The Super League Show.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 10.25 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 11.30 This Morning: Sunday. 12.30 Dinner Date. (R) 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.35 Survival: Tales from the Wild. 2.35 Inspector Morse. (R) 4.35 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programmes. 6.45 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 The Royal. A trip on a pirate radio ship ends badly when the passengers are embroiled in a siege.

8.00 Popstar to Operastar - The Final. The four finalists compete to be crowned winner, performing a solo, and a duet with either Katherine Jenkins or Rolando Villazon. Andrea Bocelli also appears.

9.00 Law & Order: UK. New series. Brooks and Devlin investigate a hospital department where three patients have died in suspicious circumstances in six months. Starring Bradley Walsh and Jamie Bamber.

10.00 Popstar to Operastar: The Results. The winner is announced. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 FILM: Eyes Wide Shut. (1999) Stanley Kubrick's drama, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

1.35 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 2.55 Motorsport UK. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 Sali Mali. (R) 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freesports on 4. 7.35 Triathlon: Ironman UK. 8.00 T4: Friends. (R) 8.25 T4: Style the Nation. 9.00 T4: T4 on the Beach: The Countdown. (R) 9.55 T4: Hollyoaks. 12.30 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.05 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.40 T4: T4 on the Beach. 5.25 Deal or No Deal.

6.20 Channel 4 News. 6.50 4thought.tv. Beverley Carter discusses how the hymn Amazing Grace has helped reinforce her belief in God, which enabled her to overcome the abuse she suffered in her early life. (R)

6.55 The Political Slot. Shirley Williams talks about NHS reforms.

7.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Jonnie Irwin and Jasmine Harman advise a couple struggling to choose between buying a property in Cheltenham and the Aude region of southern France.

8.00 FILM: Marley and Me. (2008) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, based on journalist John Grogan's account of his and his wife's life with his mischievous golden Labrador. With Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.

10.15 FILM: In Her Shoes. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz.

12.45 Stand Up for the Week. (R) 1.30 Bob's Burgers. 1.55 Five Days to Midnight. (R) 3.35 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.30 One Tree Hill. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowerlotos. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.35 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) 6.50 Elmo's World. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 The Save-Ums! (R) 7.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 Hula's Helpline. (R) 7.50 Peppa Pig. (R) 8.00 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Olivia. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 10.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.00 New Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.00 The Restaurant Inspector. (R) 1.00 Rosamunde Pilcher's Autumn. Charles stands up to Stephen. 2.45 Film: Man of the House. (2005) Comedy, starring Tommy Lee Jones. 4.35 Film: Matilda. (1996) Children's fantasy comedy, starring Mara Wilson.

6.25 5 News Weekend. 6.30 FILM: The Legend of Zorro. (2005) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas.

9.00 FILM: Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World. (2003) Seafaring drama based on Patrick O'Brian's novel, with Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany.

11.40 FILM: Sniper 2. (2002) Thriller, starring Tom Berenger.

12.55 Casino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Great Artists. (R) 4.35 Nick's Quest. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
4.30 Film: Twister (1996) 6.45 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 9.00 Film: Knocked Up (2007) Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl. 11.40 iTunes Festival 2011

ITV3
2.20 Persuasion 4.15 Film: Pride and Prejudice (2005) 6.50 Mr Bean 7.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: Frantic (1988) 11.30 Film: Sleepers (1996)

ITV4
2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage nine from Issore to Saint-Fort. 5.00 The Professionals 6.00 Tommy Cooper 7.00 Cycling: Tour de France 8.00 Minder 9.05 Film: Last Man Standing (1996) 11.05 Film: United 93 (2006)

BBC THREE
2.00 Formula 1: The British Grand Prix Highlights 8.00 My Chemical Romance & the Vaccines @ T 9.00 Time Tempah @ T 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Foo Fighters @ T

BBC FOUR
7.00 Sahara with Michael Palin 8.00 Secrets of the Arabian Nights 9.00 Believe: The Eddie Izzard Story 10.45 Eddie Izzard: Stripped

E4
3.05 Supersize vs Superskinny 4.10 Film: Flicka (2006) 6.00 Friends 7.00 Smallville 8.00 Friends 9.00 Film: Epic Movie 10.45 The Big Bang Theory 11.15 How I Met Your Mother 11.45 Film: Star Trek: Generations (1994)

FILM4
2.55 Shadow of a Doubt (1943) 5.00 Kidnapped (1971) 7.05 Big Momma's House (2000) 9.00 Sleeping with the Enemy (1991). An abused wife takes her own death to escape her violent husband and start a new life elsewhere - but he is soon on her trail. Thriller, starring Julia Roberts and Patrick Bergin. 10.55 Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (2006)

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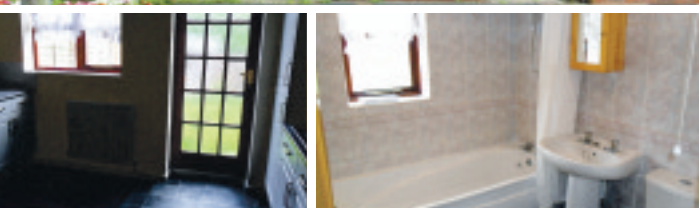
On the first floor, bedroom one – measuring 11ft 9in by 10ft 4in, has an en suite with white suite made up of walk-in shower, WC, hand wash basin and part-tiled walls.

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Three Bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, wc, first floor bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Wright Street, Halesowen



£125,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

★ Immaculate ★ Two bedroom end terrace property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing. No upward chain.

Throne Road,



£42,950 NEW INSTRUCTION

A one bedroom luxurious ground floor flat comprising in brief of lounge, kitchen, bathroom and also parking.

Counterfield Drive, Rowley Regis



£90,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Two bedroom semi detached property comprising of lounge, breakfast kitchen, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Pippin Avenue, Halesowen



Offers Over £70,000 NEW

One bedroom ground floor flat, lounge open plan to kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, double glazing, storage heaters, no upward chain, garage en-bloc and parking.

Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis



£99,950 NEW

A detached property comprising of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms. The property also benefits from front and rear gardens.

Sidaway Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £160,000 REDUCED

Four bedroom semi detached property, lounge, dining area, conservatory, kitchen, garage/room, first floor bathroom, central heating and double glazing. Rear garden and driveway.

Uplands Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property comprising of lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, driveway, central heating and double glazing.

Spies Lane, Halesowen



£160,000

Four bedroom semi detached property comprising in brief, lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway, garage, double glazing and central heating.

Harrold Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £120,000

An extended three bedroom semi detached property comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs shower room and wc, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £170,000

Three bedroom detached bungalow, comprising in brief of: driveway, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Harden Manor Court, Chadbury Road



£110,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern two bedroom ground floor flat accessed via intercom security entrance with accommodation comprising of: lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing and a garage.

Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage, front driveway and rear garden, double glazed and central heating.

Maple Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £105,000

A two bedroom terraced property comprising in brief: lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and patio area, double glazed and centrally heated.

Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £170,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom semi detached property with no upward chain, comprising in brief: lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, first floor bathroom, established garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating.

Siviters Lane, Rowley Regis



£125,000

★★★5% VENDOR GIFTED DEPOSIT ★★★
Three bedroom end terrace property, viewing recommended, lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated and rear garden.

Brickhouse Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £90,000

Two bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen/diner with Integral appliances, bathroom, bedroom one having feature shower area, double glazing and part central heating, front and rear gardens. No upward chain.

Coombe Hill, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £90,000

Two bedroom mid terrace property comprising of: lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and driveway, double glazing and central heating.

Bell End, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £85,000

A two bedroom mid terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden, double glazed and part central heating.

Firth Park Crescent, Halesowen



£140,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, office/playroom, kitchen/diner, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Compton Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £160,000

Four bedroom traditional property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs shower room, garage, first floor bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Westbourne Road, Halesowen



£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached property with no upward chain. Comprising in brief: lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear garden and driveway



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FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 56 Reg. Sky Blue Metallic, Air Con, Alloys, 58K, FSH	£4295
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 07 Reg. 5-dr. Silver, AC, 45k, SH	£4995
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PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDI (STATION WAGON), 06 Reg. Silver, AC, Alloys, Glass Roof, 63k	£5495
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MG ZR+ 53 Reg. 3-dr. Yellow, Half Leather, 50K, Alloys, AC, FSH	£2995
MG TF 1.8 135 53 Reg. Trophy Blue, Half Leather, 61k, FSH	£2995
CITROEN C4 1.6 COOL 3-DR, COUPE, 07 Reg. Silver, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 29k, FSH	£4695
MINI COOPER 53 Reg. Blue Metallic, Chilli Pack, 51k, SH	£5295
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI 07 Reg. 3-door, Black Sapphire, AC, Alloys, 60K, FSH, 1 Owner	£5795
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MINI ONE 1.6 55 Reg. 3-door, Blue Metallic, Union Jack Roof, AC, Alloys, 30K, FSH	£6495
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Volvo D5s balance power, economy and environment



Above, the Volvo V70 estate and below, the S80 saloon

VOLVO'S newly enhanced D5 range manages to strike the balance between environment and performance despite larger engine sizes.

Sometimes a higher performing and bigger engine is what's required from a company car. This would usually compromise environmental concerns and lift fuel costs and taxes. Volvo's latest D5 diesel range provides a number of models with impressive fuel economy and CO2 emissions.

The upgraded versions of the Volvo V70, XC70 and S80 are the first in the model to have sharpened versions of the five-cylinder D5 turbo-diesels which boost performance and torque from 205 hp/420Nm to 215 hp/440Nm while reducing fuel consumption by as much as eight per cent.

and 45.6mpg with automatic (164g/km). Fuel consumption in the XC70 D5 AWD manual is 50mpg (149g/km) and 41.5mpg (179g/km) for automatic.

The V70, XC70 and S80 have been upgraded with features including driveline, interior and exterior equipment including the latest user-friendly Volvo Sensus infotainment system, and are available to order now with on-the-road prices for D5 versions starting from £30,100 for the V70 D5 (215hp) ES Start/Stop; £31,135 for the S80 D5 (215hp) SE Start/Stop; and £32,765 for the XC70 D5 AWD (215 hp) ES Start/Stop.

Choice

"We have made these vehicles more enjoyable and as cost-efficient as possible to drive," said Volvo UK's national sales manager, Selwyn Cooper. "With that comes lower CO2 which means company car drivers have a widened choice of vehicles powered by larger engines without the expected hike in the amount of tax they would have to pay."

Fuel consumption (EU Combined) of a Volvo S80 D5 is 57.7mpg (129g/km of CO2) with manual gearbox and start/stop, placing it in the 18 per cent BIK category. Figures for the automatic version are 44.1mpg (159 g/km). The figures for a Volvo V70 are 55.4mpg (134g/km) with manual gearbox



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53 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.4 SE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD Multi Changer	£2995	£19
54 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST 2005, Silver, CD, 3-door, Low Insurance	£2995	£17
02 Reg PEUGEOT 206 2.0 SE CABRIOLET Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k	£3695	£24
56 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34k	£5195	£28
08 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, Low Insurance, FSH, 27k	£5395	£35
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57 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LIFE Silver, 2008, A/C, CD, 53k	£5495	£35
07 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTI 16V LIFE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, Low Road Tax	£5195	£33
53 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CDTI Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
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07 Reg VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI EXCLUSIVE Silver, A/C, CD, 48k	£5195	£33
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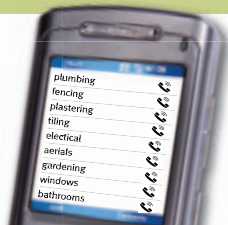
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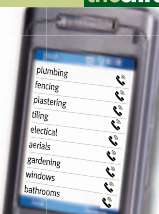
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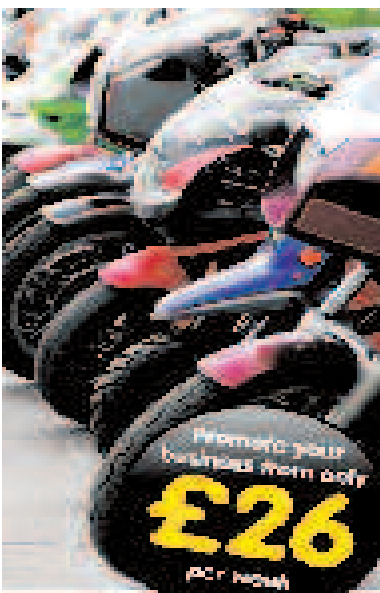
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sport

Glassboys in friendly

Stourbridge Football Club welcomes npower League Two side Cheltenham Town to the War Memorial Athletic Ground on Tuesday July 12, kick-off 7.45pm.

The Robins are expected to bring their first team squad for this friendly match with their recent signing, Wordsley born Russell Penn, the former Kidderminster Harriers and Burton Albion midfielder included.

To encourage supporters to come along and enjoy a rare chance to see the Glassboys play a pre-season friendly at Amblecote, admission charges have been priced at £5 for adults and £3 senior citizens/juniors.

Children under 12 and accompanied by a paying adult will be admitted free. A programme will also be on sale on the night.

The match will be sponsored by Mercedes Benz Commercial Vehicle dealer Mudie Bond, Kidderminster.

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The 1stXI played hosts to Attock at Haden Hill on a perfect summer's afternoon before a large expectant crowd.

However, after the euphoria of last weekend's successes they turned in a below par performance against the revitalised visitors.

Having won the toss, Old Hill chose to field and Ed Denham took the first wicket before a run had been scored but then partnerships of 84 and 104 between centurion Q Zaman (106) and first J Khan (39) and then A Mahmood (42) took Attock to 193 - 3 before a flurry of five wickets for 25 runs left the visitors struggling to post a commanding total.

However, a late rally took the score to 245-8 wickets off their 55 overs with Zafran Ali (3-58) and Nigel Davenport (2-69) the pick of the home bowlers.

Old Hill's reply started well enough as Dan Cox (11), Nitesh Patel (27) and Mike Hingley (43) took the hosts to 93-1 before the unfortunate Hingley received a nasty blow on the foot, disturbing his concentration, to be caught at mid-on immediately after the injury.

Old Hill then struggled to push on

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against a mixture of hostile fast and spin bowling finding themselves staring defeat in the face with the last pair at the wicket and 10 overs remaining but with some resolute and sensible batting by last pair Zafran Ali (15 not out) and Sharkey Hussain (6no) they weathered the storm to salvage a draw.

HARBORNE (2 POINTS) 163 LOST TO OLD HILL (20 POINTS) 166-2 BY 8 WICKETS.

The 2ndXI made the short trip to Old Church Avenue for their game against Harborne and having won the toss chose to field and were soon amongst the wickets as frontline bowlers Connor Smith (3-36), Jon Baig (1 - 35), Dan Such (3-14) and Jared Daniels (2-50) combined to dismiss the home side for 163 in 42 overs.

Old Hill then put together a solid batting performance as in form Dan Wood (106 not out) hit an unbeaten century ably assisted by Joe Thorn (44) as the visitors were victorious in just 31 overs for a superb win by 8 wickets.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER (24 POINTS) 225-7 BEAT OLD HILL (3 POINTS) 123 BY 102 RUNS.

A weakened 3rdXI were no match for Cleobury Mortimer at the Love Lane Ground. Old Hill won the toss and chose to

field and the hosts scored 225-7 wickets off their 50 overs. For the visitors, Nathan Davies took 4-37 off 9 overs and Richard Lloyd 2-54 from his 15 overs were the pick of the bowlers. In reply, Old Hill's inexperienced team never got to terms with the task in hand and were bowled out for 123 runs with only Mitch Jeffery (39) showing any resistance as the home side ran out winners by 123 runs.

OLD HILL (24 POINTS) 175-8 BEAT CLEOBURY MORTIMER (5 POINTS) 170 BY 2 WICKETS.

The Fourth XI played out a roller-coaster game at Wassell Grove against Cleobury Mortimer with many twists and turns before finally coming out on top.

The visitors won the toss and decided to bat but thanks to some top class bowling and fielding by Old Hill, they could only manage a total of 170 runs in 30 overs although they had looked to be in the driving seat at 96-1 off 17 overs.

Pick of the bowlers was Izzy Khan who took 3-7 off 4 overs to add to his four outfield catches, closely followed by Captain Irshad Ahmed who took 2 wickets.

Then, opening the Old Hill batting, Anthony Foster (49) and Izzy Khan (34) shared in an opening stand of 85 in 14 overs before the hosts found themselves with 8 wickets down and still 13 runs needed for victory in spite of a quick-fire 20 from

Ahmed. Then, Lewis Javadi (9 not out) and Rob Lloyd saw Old Hill home to a brilliant third consecutive victory and a maximum 24 points.

Sunday July 3
ROMSLEY & HUNNINGTON (0 POINTS) 208 LOST TO OLD HILL (10 POINTS) 209-7 BY 3 WICKETS.

The SundayXI visited Romsley for their Worcester Border League Division 1 game and came away with a win in a hard fought game. Batting first, Romsley scored 208 all out with Dan Jones (4) and Dan Such (3) being the leading wicket-takers for the visitors.

In reply, Joe Thorn (50) got Old Hill off to a good start with a half century but it was then left to Captain Carl Whyte (50 not out) to shepherd the visitors home to victory with his own unbeaten half century and three wickets remaining.

Fixtures: Saturday 9 July
1stXI away at Kenilworth, noon start.

2ndXI at home to Shrewsbury, 12.30pm start.

3rdXI at home to Halesowen, 1.30pm start.

4thXI away at Halesowen, 1.30pm start.

Sunday July 10 Sunday XI at home to Waterford, 2pm start.

Women's XI at home to Five Ways OE start 1pm.

Derek Griffiths

SPEEDWAY

Dudley sign up two new youngsters



Brendan Johnson



Adam Portwood

Table-topping Dudley have shuffled the pack with two new signings, *writes Tim Hamblin.*

Brendan Johnson and Adam Portwood - who was 16 last week - come in to replace injury victim Richard Franklin and reserve Danny Stoneman, who is being released.

Franklin has a torn knee ligament, an injury he exacerbated in the recent defeat at King's Lynn, said club chairman Nigel Pearson.

"He has been carrying the effects of it all season," added Pearson. "Doctors have advised him to have surgery immediately and he will be out of action for six weeks at least."

Nineteen-year-old Johnson forms one of speedway's more heart-warming stories. He suffered horrific injuries in a crash at the Isle of Wight in 2009 which left him in an induced coma on life-support systems. Yet a year later he was British under-18 champion!

Johnson, who reached the British under-21 final this season, switches from the Isle of Wight and will make his Heathens debut there against his old club last week.

Portwood finished third in last year's British under-15 championship and was signed by Mildenhall earlier this month only to lose his place when Aussie hotshot Cameron Heeps finally obtained clearance to ride in this country.

Heathens team boss Will Pottinger said: "Richard's injury is a blow. He was hoping to put the operation off until the end of the season."

"We have been very fortunate to have Brendan on board so quickly, we were thinking about him during the winter."

"The management also decided to cast an eye towards the future with Adam Portwood. We have to start looking at working with our own riders rather than trying to find riders from elsewhere."

"We wish Danny Stoneman all the very best and hope he gets fixed up as soon as possible."

BOXING

Aston has a polished start to his pro career

Ice-cool Ryan Aston cheered British fight fans at the biggest boxing show of the year in Hamburg at the weekend.

The Dudley middleweight continued a perfect start to his pro career with a four-round points win over Bulgarian Zuhari Muatfchiev that came seven days after victory on his paid debut. Aston's win was the opening fight of the show topped by David Haye's heavyweight unification battle with Wladimir Klitschko and the Intech Arena was slowly filling with fans when the Black Country prospect ducked between the ropes.

Aston, part of the Haymaker promotional stable, has much to look forward to. His next fight is pencilled in for Friday, September 23 at Tower Ballrooms in Edgbaston when the southpaw will be looking to build on a polished start to his professional career.

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Stour on track for record

STOURBRIDGE 1ST XI (24 POINTS) 138-2. BROMYARD 1ST XI (1 POINT) 137 STOURBRIDGE WIN BY 8 WICKETS

The juggernaut successfully completed the first half of the journey this time beating a Bromyard team that was considered lead contenders for the league honours backed by highly talented players.

Stourbridge clocked up 207 points meaning their nearest new rivals are Pershore on 171. Bromyard skipper Edd Oliver won the toss confident of a victory decided to take the first strike in the soaring heat, a decision that has given Stour a handy 24 points to make them more secure at the top.

The successful opening duo James Musk and Jitesh Patel put the first up Bromyard pair on the back foot.

Bowling immaculate line and length Patel struck the first blow Ash Bullock nicked one to keeper Greg Jones with the score on 15 in the 6th over. In the next over Musk saw off skipper Edd Oliver judged lbw.

Zahid Saeed put away two consecutive boundaries off Patel joined by the Bromyard overseas prolific striker Dinusha Fernando the pair threatened to take the game away scoring in boundaries.

Patel outwitted Fernando getting him to play an extravagant drive that looped in the air snapped up by Richard Bradley for 8 and Bromyard score on 34.

Having to squeeze out runs the pressure told on Bromyard batsmen. Musk claimed his second victim Errol Anderson lbw for 5. Stour now back in the game with Bromyard reeling 4 for 55 with Saeed 33 not out at the other end.

Audy Alexander bowled Greg Leighton for 1 and then trapped Tom Baylis for a duck

Bromyard innings in tatters at 71 for 6 in the 22nd over. Left stranded defending Zahid Saeed's vigil ended trying to square cut Alexander for 60.

A ninth wicket partnership of 41 between Matt Bullock (14) and Dave Taylor (25) repaired the damage taking the Bromyard score past the 100. The tail swept up the league leaders were once again in the driving seat. Audy Alexander ended up 4 for 36 in 14 overs. Kalpesh Patel bowled 10 overs giving away mere 13 runs for one wicket summed up a feature of Stour's success so far this season.

In the Stour innings openers Steve Game and Matt Bradley both batted sensibly at the start unleashing their stroke play time perfectly. Bradley started the short burst of entertainment with four massive sixes in his quick fire 34.

Game played masterly with a not out 55. The 106 partnership between Bradley and Game brought Stour victory in the 27th over by 8 wickets.

ALVECHURCH & HOPWOOD CC 2NDXI (5 POINTS) 221-9. STOURBRIDGE 2NDXI (20 POINTS) 222-4 STOURBRIDGE WIN BY 10 WICKETS

Stourbridge 2ndXI match against Alvechurch and Hopwood second XI was well worth the journey for the 20 points.

Stour Skipper Irfan Feraz chose to field and led his team to victory by six wickets.

Hopwood openers Steven Hamblin and Mike Gilmore were both sent back to the pavilion for ducks. The middle order kept Hopwood in the game taking the score to 221. James Sidaway (54) and C.Pearson (53) repaired the early damage supported by Ryan Spink's 32.

The double century total was surpassed by Stour's strong batting line up in the 39th

over. Paceman James Winders anchored the innings with 56 not out, the prolific young star Ben Mantom once again in the runs taking his score to 51, spinner James Wood showed his batting prowess hitting 69.

Stour got home four wickets down. Stour 2ndXI are placed third in second division of the Worcestershire league 31 points behind the leaders Pedmore.

HANLEY CASTLE & UPTON 1ST XI (24 POINTS) 116-0. STOURBRIDGE 3RD XI (0 POINT) 116. HANLEY CASTLE UPTON WIN BY 148 RUNS

Stourbridge 3rdXI were up against Hanley Castle & Upton 1st XI and lost badly after being bowled out for 116 in the 39th over as skipper Daniel De Saullès decided to bat first. Jordan Brooks (25) and 15-year-old Callum Litster (36) put up some resistance.

Barton Mathews helped himself to 3 wickets with the rest taking two apiece. Opposition openers Rory Mathews (46) and Will St Leger-Chambers (70) needed no support to grab the 10 wicket victory in just 15 overs.

STOURBRIDGE 4TH XI (4 POINTS) 63 HANLEY CASTLE AND UPTON 2ND XI (24 POINTS) 211 HANLEY CASTLE & UPTON WIN

Stour 4thXI took on Hanley & Upton second XI and suffered the same blow as their counterparts the 3rdXI. Fielding first skipper Alex Dent praised the bowling of under 16 year old Heran Patel keeping an immaculate line and length.

Patel ended up with taking three wickets for 28 runs off 12 overs. Patel's effort did not stop the opposition scampering to 211 thanks to a tail ender's inning of 74 from Mark Arnott. Worse was to follow for the Stour youngsters as they were skittled out for 63 off 25 overs.

RUGBY

Rugby ladies back training



Stourbridge Ladies are back in training

Holiday season is well and truly over for Stourbridge Ladies Rugby Team who are back in training from Wednesday July 13.

Following a convincing win of the National Challenge Midlands 2 league, the team were promoted for the first time to National Challenge Midlands 1 finishing a credible fifth seeing off teams such as Oxford, Longton and Lutterworth.

Head Coach Bill Webb said "Last season was a huge learning curve for us and the experience gained puts us in a good position for the coming season."

Stourbridge take to the pitch at Stourton Park, Stourbridge for their first home match of the season on Saturday October 9 at 2.00pm against Worcester Ladies II.

New players are always welcome whether experienced or complete novices. Training takes place at 7pm Wednesday nights at Stourbridge Rugby Club, Stourton Park, Stourbridge.

Contact Bill Webb on 07736 406917 for more details.

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